

A
Seasonable Warning
BY THE
COMMISSION
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
CONCERNING
The Danger of Popery.

At Edinburgh the 19th August 1713

WHE the Ministers and Elders met in the Commission of the General Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*, taking to our serious Consideration, the inveterate Malice of Papists against the true reformed Religion, and their restless Endeavours, particularly at this Time, to ruin the Protestant Interest in *Britain* and *Ireland*, the great multitudes of their Priests, and other Emissaries now Trafficking, for carrying on this pernicious Design in several Parts of this Country, whereby many are already perverted; their setting up openly in diverse Places their idolatrous Worship, notwithstanding of the Penal Laws which stand in Force against them, and of her Majesty's Royal Proclamations, and what the Judges have done in their Circuits. And their behaving themselves with as great Intolerance as they have ever shewed since our Reformation from Popery. And likewise considering the bold Attempts of other Adversaries to our present Constitution both in Church and State, who do openly in our chief Cities and through the whole Country promote the Interests of a Pretender to the Crown, who has been educated in all the Maxims of Popish Bigotry, and *French* Tyranny And we being touched with a just and deep Sence of these dangerous Evils, do judge it our Duty, from the Zeal we owe to the Glory of God, the Preservation of our holy Religion, the safety of her Majesty's Government, and the welfare of our Country, and in Pursuance of the Trust committed to us by the last General Assembly, to give this publick, solemn and serious Warning to all ranks of Person, of the imminent Danger which doth arise from such pernicious Practises, not only to our pure and holy Religion, but to our civil Rights and Liberties: And therefore we do earnestly obtest all good Protestants and Lovers of their Country, That they look diligently to themselves, that they be not deluded by the subtil Devices of a *Popish* and *Jacobite* party who so manifestly design to bring us under the Yoke of the said Pretender, and thereby to deprive us of these most valuable Blessings, which the great and gracious God did so remarkably restore unto us by the late glorious Revolution.

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To preserve the Members of this National Church from being imposed upon by the cunning Artifices of such Enemies, we beseech them to advert how deceitfully many of these, who are notoriously disaffected to her Majesty's Government, do with great Appearance of Zeal, espouse and promote the Cerimonies and Liturgy of the Church of *England*, a Yoke which neither we nor our Fathers were able to bear, and which this Nation would never submit to, even in the Times of Prelacy; but altho the *Jacobite* party do now so earnestly contend for that Form of Worship, to impose upon, and ingratiate themselves with the Church of *Egland*, and to strengthen themselves under her Protection, their Zeal for the Pretender is such, that they generally omit the prayers in that Liturgy for our Sovereign Queen *Anne*, and the illustrious Princess *Sophia*, upon whom the Succession to the Crown is settled, which Succession we cannot but esteem to be, under God, the greatest Security, not only to the protestant interest in these Lands; but also to the reformed Churches abroad, in whose safety we are confident, That all good Protestants will find themselves deeply concerned both in point of Duty and Interest.

It's also very common with that party, to make a great outcry, especially at distant Places, where the Matter is not so well known, of their having suffered grievous persecution, meerly because of their being of the Episcopal perswasion. This is another of their Artifices, to procure unto themselves the more Favour and Countenance from others, whose protection they abuse, to prosecute their malicious Designs against the Revolution Settlement: But this their Clamour and Noise is altogether groundless; and blessed be God we can appeal to the Consciences of all who know our Conduct, That we have never since the late happy Revolution, in the least returned the Severities, and unparalleled Cruelties which we met with, when they had the Ascendent; and which we from their present Temper, as well as their former Behaviour, may reasonably conclude, they want nothing but power to renew against the Ministers and Members of this Church.

Moreover, That they may diminish the just Aversion of the people of this Land to the Pretender, and engage them to his Interest, they do artfully suggest, and with the utmost Confidence assure them, That were he once advanced to the Throne, he would procure the Dissolution of the Union. But we intreat all persons to consider, That whatever be the Inconveniencies, and dangerous Consequences of the Union to our civil Interests, or the Grievances of this Church under it, against which last, both the Commission and General Assembly gave solemn and seasonable Testimony, particularly, in the Tenth Act of the General Assembly held *Anno 1712*, Intituled, *Act approving the Representations and Addresses by the Commission, concerning the Toleration and Patronages*; yet to expect a Remedy to these Grievances from the Pretender, is a most gross Delusion, and a Bait which we cannot think will catch any, but such as are very simple and credulous; yea, supposing there were Ground, as there is none, to expect that the Pretender would dissolve the Union, if he should come to the Throne; yet that could not be at all a sufficient Compensation for the dreadful Train of the far greater Evils of Tyrannical Government, and the Abominations of Popery, which we could not but meet with, if a person of his principles and Education should be advanced to the supreme Authority; any Remedy that can be looked for from him would prove so much worse than our present Disease, that we cannot but be confident, there is none who have any just concern for our Religion and civil Liberties, which ought to be dearest

to us, as Protestants and free-born Scots Men, will suffer themselves to be deluded with such an absurd and ensnaring Insinuation.

We find it necessary also, to guard people against another artful Contrivance of the *Jacobite* party: These of them that profess to be protestants, that they may the more easily engage people into their measures, do frequently declare, That they are for a protestant Succession; and with great Assurance advance as a thing to be relied upon, That the pretender hath declared, or will declare himself to be a protestant: But this is an Artifice so gross, that it can take with none who do consider, That the Pope doth dispense with the fairest profession of the protestant Religion, and the most solemn Oaths to maintain it, for advancing that hellish Design of extirpating the protestant Religion, under the opprobrious Name of the Northern Heresie; and which all papists by their cruel and bloody principles, are obliged to endeavour to the utmost of their power, upon pain of Damnation; and likewise that a Prince who is a papist at heart, may the more securely and easily work the Ruin of our Religion and Liberty, that his designs are covered with the Mask of a Protestant profession. Such therefore, as are imposed upon with the fond and groundless Expectation of the Pretender's being Protestant, and would thereupon intrust him with all our valuable Concerns, must needs bewray the greatest Ignorance of the Principles of Papists, and the many obvious Instances of their Dissimulation; nay, bring upon themselves not only the Brand of Weakness and foolish Credulity, but the heinous Guilt of Treachery to God, from their inexcusable running into Measures, which so manifestly endanger our holy Religion, and the happy Constitution of this Church, founded upon and agreeable unto the Word of God.

Wherefore we do with the greatest Earnestness recommend to all the Ministers of this National Church, that they endeavour by publick and private instruction to impress the people of their respective Charges, with a due Sense of the Evil of Popery, and extreme Danger these Lands would certainly be brought into, of being overrun with it, and ruined with Oppression and Tyranny, if ever the Lord should for our Sins permit the Pretender, educated and confirmed in the Popish Religion, and instructed in all the principles of Arbitrary Government, to bear Rule over us: And we do seriously exhort all the Ministers and Members of this Church, to testify all Duty Loyalty to our only rightful and lawful Sovereign Queen *Anne*; and a zealous Concern for the Protestant Succession, settled upon the most Excellent Princess *Sophia* Electress and Dutches *Duager* of *Hanover*, and their Heirs of her Body being Protestants: And we judge it proper at this Occasion to put them in mind, That this Illustrious Princess is the Grand-Daughter of King *James* the Sixth of *Scotland*, and First of *England*, by his Daughter the Lady *Elizabeth* Queen of *Bohemia*, for whom and her Children our worthy predecessors did publickly pray in their Churches, and whose Husband was descended, of a Family which was remarkably Zealous for the Glorious Work of Reformation, and who himself did endure great Tryals of Affliction for his steadfast adherence to the protestant Interest.

When we therefore consider how much both our present and future Safety, under God, doth depend upon that Familie's Succeeding to the Crown, and how necessary the preservation of that Succession is, for the Security of our Religion and Liberties, and of all that is dear to us as Men and Christians; we cannot forbear, at such a juncture as this, to excite our selves,
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and all our Communion to testify, as blessed be God they have hitherto done, a firm and steady adherence thereto; under whatever Discouragements may happen; and in the bowels of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we do seriously obtest and beseech all Ranks of Persons, to hear the Voice of God's Dispensations to us in these Lands, and to humble themselves deeply under the many sad Causes and Tokens of the LORD's Anger, to prepare to meet our God by turning unto him with all their hearts, by unfeigned Repentance and Reformation of Life, fleeing to the Blood of Sprinkling for Reconciliation, and making known our Requests to God, with all prayer and Supplication in the Spirit, That he would continue, Strengthen and perfect what he has wrought for us, disappoint the designs and hopes of a Popish and *Jacobite* Party, preserve the happy Constitution of this National Church, sanctify and remove our present Grievances, and teach us to profit by all his Dispensations; That he would prosper and bless our Sovereign Queen *Anne*, direct her Councils, and prosper her Government; That he would preserve and maintain, against all its Opposers, the protestant Succession in the House of *Hanover*, and eminently bless that illustrious Family; That he would give Wisdom to all Ranks to understand the Times; That he would pour out a Spirit of Love, of power and of a sound Mind upon Ministers, That with one Heart and Mouth they may strive together, in defence of the Doctrine, Worship, and government of this Church, as now settled; That he would bless them with Meekness, Wisdom and Zeal, to avoid all Divisions that bring a Scandal upon Religion, endanger our Constitution, and expose us to the scorn of our Enemies, and give them advantage over us; That the Lord would give to all of us, to reflect seriously on the many Troubles, which have afflicted our *Zion*, and to shun carefully all those sins which procured them; That he would keep up in our lively Remembrance, the great Danger our Religion and Liberties were in, when in his Infinite Goodness he surprized these Nations, with the late happy Revolution, a Mercy never to be forgotten, without the highest Ingratitude to God, and the greatest injustice to the Memory of the late Glorious King *William*, which ought always to be Savoury to all good Protestants; That he would enable us to make a right improvement of that Gospel Light and purity, which we now enjoy, and work in us a Temper of Spirit suitable thereto; That he would make serious Godliness and Christian Charity to flourish amongst us, and give all Ranks on Heart, and one Way to fear him, and keep his Commandments alwise, that so our gracious God would dwell in our Land, and that it may be well with us, and our posterity after us.

The above written Warning and Exhortation having been read at sundry Dyets of the Commission, and fully considered, was this Day voted and unanimously approved by them. And they appointed the same to be forthwith printed, and Copies thereof to be sent to the respective presbyteries, and recommends to them to take the most effectual Way to publish the same to the several Ministers and Members of this Church. *Subscribed by*

WILL. WISHEART. *Modr.*
JO. DUNDAS. *Cls. Escl. Scot.*